



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

JUSTIFY GALLOPS 1 1/8 MILES IN THE MUD AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, May 27, 2018) – With a heavy downpour overnight in Louisville, Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert's** assistant **Jimmy Barnes** slightly adjusted the plans for undefeated Kentucky Derby (Grade I) and Preakness (GI) winner **Justify** on Sunday morning at Churchill Downs as the colt continued his training for the June 9 Belmont Stakes (GI) with a 1 1/8-mile gallop under exercise rider **Humberto Gomez** aboard.

“With the mud, we just jogged him straight off to begin his training,” Barnes said. “He then galloped about 1 1/8 miles but did everything well. We just didn’t want to do too much with him over the track condition.”

Baffert is expected to return to Churchill Downs on Monday morning to watch Justify train.

Justify is no stranger to running in the mud after winning both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness over a “sloppy” surface.

“He’s very good on a dry track as well but unfortunately we’ve just been catching wet surfaces,” Barnes said. “I’ve seen him run on a dry surface and I definitely like what I saw.”

Also training Sunday during the exclusive 7:30-7:40 a.m. (all times Eastern) training window for horses preparing for the Belmont Stakes were Preakness runner-up **Bravazo**, who jogged two miles with exercise rider **Danielle Rosier** aboard for Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**, and Preakness third **Tenfold**, who galloped about 1 3/8 miles with **Angel Garcia** for fellow Hall of Fame conditioner **Steve Asmussen**.

Other Belmont Stakes possible contenders based at Churchill Downs are **Albaugh Family Stables' Breeders' Futurity** (GI) winner **Free Drop Billy**, who is now scheduled to breeze Monday morning after the overnight rain in Louisville, and Wood Memorial (GI) third **Restoring Hope**, who could breeze Monday or Tuesday while Baffert is in town.

The Belmont Stakes field could possibly be comprised of the following 11 horses (with trainer): **Bandua** (Dermot Weld), **Blended Citizen** (Doug O'Neill), **Bravazo** (D. Wayne Lukas), **Free Drop Billy** (Dale Romans), **Gronkowski** (Chad Brown), **Hofburg** (Bill Mott), **Justify** (Baffert), **Noble Indy** (Todd Pletcher), **Restoring Hope** (Baffert), **Tenfold** (Steve Asmussen) and **Vino Rosso** (Pletcher).

Only 12 horses have swept the Triple Crown: **Sir Barton** (1919), **Gallant Fox** (1930), **Omaha** (1935), **War Admiral** (1937), **Whirlaway** (1941), **Count Fleet** (1943), **Assault** (1946), **Citation** (1948), **Secretariat** (1973), **Seattle Slew** (1977), **Affirmed** (1978) and American Pharoah (2015).

To watch Justify's gallop Sunday morning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDqCbrMrD8E>

For complementary past performances of the Belmont Stakes contenders courtesy of Brisnet.com: <http://www.brisnet.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BelmontStakes18.pdf>.

FANS CAN WATCH JUSTIFY TRAIN IN PERSON OR ONLINE – With unbeaten Triple Crown hopeful **Justify** and four other possible Belmont Stakes contenders stabled on the grounds, Churchill Downs Racetrack is conducting a special 7:30-7:40 a.m. (all times Eastern) training period for those horses.

Area horse racing fans are invited to watch those colts train from the first floor of the facility free of charge. Churchill Downs Racetrack will open its Paddock Gate entrance between 7-8 a.m. each morning through Monday, June 4 so the public can watch Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Justify along with rivals **Bravazo**, **Free Drop Billy**, **Restoring Hope** and **Tenfold** prepare for the 1 1/2-mile third jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown – the 150th running of the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes (Grade I) on Saturday, June 9.

Guests may park free of charge in the Orange and Black Lots outside of the Paddock Gate.

Video of the exercises will be shown on the Big Board and infield video screens at Churchill Downs. Those unable to attend can watch an online live stream of the daily exercises with commentary on the Kentucky Derby Facebook (www.facebook.com/KentuckyDerby), Twitter (www.twitter.com/kentuckyderby) and at www.KentuckyDerby.com/Works from 7:20-7:45 a.m. through Monday, June 4, thanks to **TwinSpires.com**, the country's leading online and mobile betting platform and official betting partner of Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup World Championships. Also, clips of the activity will be uploaded on the Kentucky Derby YouTube channel.

OAKS WINNER MONOMOY GIRL BREEZES FIVE FURLONGS IN :59.40 BEFORE SUNDAY OPENER – Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I) winner **Monomoy Girl** was originally scheduled to breeze Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. (all times Eastern) at Churchill Downs but when overnight rain left the track “muddy,” the multiple Grade I winning filly was permitted to work five furlongs in :59.40 over a “fast” surface at 12:15 p.m. prior to the first race.

With regular rider **Florent Geroux** aboard, the Brad Cox-trained daughter of Tapizar breezed in company with 5-year-old gelding and \$400,940-earner Dazzling Gem through splits of :13, :25, :36.60 and :48.40 before galloping out six furlongs in 1:12.80 and seven-eighths of a mile in 1:26.40.

“It was a really solid work,” Cox said. “It was exactly what we were looking for. We really wanted to keep her on a schedule with 13 days out from the race. We could’ve breezed her on the mud this morning but it would’ve been more of a maintenance work and I wanted to do something a little more with her. The track was better this afternoon and she did it the right way. If she can keep putting things together in the afternoon as she does in the morning training she’ll be tough in the Acorn.”

“The horse she breezed with is pretty nice,” Geroux said. “She did everything really well and worked easy. She got by (Dazzling Gem) with no problem and galloped out well.”

Monomoy Girl (7-6-1-0—\$1,120,750), who is preparing for a start in the \$700,000 Acorn (GI) on the June 9 Belmont Stakes undercard, defeated 13 rivals to win the Kentucky Oaks by a half-length over **Wonder Gadot**.

“I still pinch myself that we actually won the Oaks,” Louisville native Cox said. “I’m so proud of our whole team and this filly. She’s the real deal.”

MISS KENTUCKY POSSIBLE FOR JUNE 23 ROXELANA FOLLOWING WINNING COLORS WIN – **Preston Madden’s Miss Kentucky** could make her next start in the \$70,000-added Roxelana Overnight Stakes on June 23 following her narrow victory in Saturday’s \$100,000 Winning Colors Stakes (Grade III) at Churchill Downs, according to trainer **Rusty Arnold II’s** assistant **Jack Bohannon**.

“She came out of things in really good shape,” Bohannon said Sunday morning. “We haven’t quite decided what we’ll do with her yet. We’ll take it day by day but the Roxelana could be an option that would make a lot of sense.”

Miss Kentucky, a five-time winner by Blame out of Madden’s mare Champagne Taste, battled with heavy favorite **Golden Mischief** in the mid-stage of the Winning Colors and held off the late charge of **Treble** to garner her first graded stakes win.

The 4-year-old filly paid \$9.20 as the second choice in the field of six and stopped the clock in 1:10.35 for six furlongs over the fast main track.

TOMLINSON TARGETS MATT WINN FOR HOME BASE FOLLOWING ALLOWANCE WIN – **Patricia’s Hope LLC’s** former \$50,000 claim **Home Base** could aim for the \$100,000 Matt Winn (Grade III) on June 16 after he “impressed” trainer **Mike Tomlinson** with a gutsy half-length win in a first-level allowance Saturday afternoon at Churchill Downs.

“He definitely impressed us all today,” Tomlinson said. “The goal has been the Matt Winn with this colt. I wanted to get a two-turn race to fill for him but after his win at Keeneland in April, the two-turn race in the condition book would have been too quick. Ultimately, we had to run him seven furlongs but I think he showed he should be able to go a route of ground.”

Ridden by **Joe Rocco Jr.**, Home Base covered the seven furlongs in 1:22.03 and returned \$23.60.

“I had to ride him a bit but he really dug back in a tried hard,” Rocco said. “I think he could be a good one.”

The 1 1/16-mile Matt Winn is one of five stakes races on the June 16 Downs After Dark Presented by Budweiser card that also includes the \$500,000 Stephen Foster Handicap (GI), \$200,000 Fleur de Lis Handicap (GII), \$200,000 Wise Dan (GII) and \$100,000 Regret.

Nominations for all five stakes races on June 16 close June 2. Nominations can be made at: <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nomination-forms/>.

STAKES PROBABLES – Saturday’s 11-race card at Churchill Downs features the 30th running of the Grade III, \$100,000 Aristides for 3-year-olds and up at six furlongs on the main track and the third running of the \$70,000-added Mighty Beau Overnight Stakes at five furlongs on the turf. Both races will be drawn Wednesday. Known Aristides probable entrants include **Awesome Saturday**, **Chief Cicatriz**, **Mr. Crow**, **Shadow Tracer** and **Wilbo**.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Racing continues Sunday at Churchill Downs with a massive \$636,166 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot that gets underway in Race 4 at 2:13 p.m. (all times Eastern). First post of the nine-race program is 12:45 p.m. ... In honor of Memorial Day on Monday, all active and retired members of the United States armed forces will be admitted free of charge. Also, Churchill Downs’ bugler **Steve Buttleman** will perform patriotic melodies following the “Call to the Post” for each race.

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